

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A mouth activated input device, comprising:
 - 5 an elongated tubular body having an exterior surface, a first end and a second end, with a first portion at the first end having a first axis and a second portion at the second end having a second axis which is inclined at an angle to the first axis;
 - 10 a tongue activated multi-directional sensor element positioned on the second portion; and at least one of a bite switch or a sip and puff switch incorporated into the body.
- 15 2. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 1, wherein a guard extends from the exterior surface on the first portion which is adapted to limit the extent to which the body can be inserted into a person's mouth.
- 20 3. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 2, wherein the guard is a locking sleeve which has more than one locking position, such that the guard is axially adjustable to a selected one of the locking positions along the first portion of the tubular body.
- 25 4. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 1, wherein there is provided both the bite switch and the sip and puff switch.
- 30 5. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sip and puff switch has an elongated opening, which extends axially along the body.
- 35 6. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the sip and puff switch has a saliva trap chamber

with a removable cover to facilitate cleaning.

7. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 1,
5 wherein the tongue activated multi-directional sensor element
is in the form of a pivoting plate.
8. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 7,
wherein the plate pivots to four primary positions about two
10 substantially perpendicular intersecting pivot axes.
9. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 8,
wherein the plate pivots to secondary positions between the
four primary positions.

10. A mouth activated input device, comprising:

an elongated tubular body having an upper exterior
5 surface, a lower exterior surface, a first end and a second
end, with a first portion at the first end having a first
axis and a second portion at the second end having a second
axis which is inclined at an angle to the first axis;

10 a tongue activated sensor element plate positioned on
the lower exterior surface of the second portion of the
body, sensor element plate pivoting to four primary positions
about two substantially perpendicular intersecting pivot
axes; and

15 a bite switch positioned on the upper exterior surface
of the first portion of the body;

a sip and puff switch incorporated into the body, with
an elongated opening which extends axially along the upper
exterior surface of the body; and

20 a guard extending from the exterior surface on the first
portion of the body which is adapted to limit the extent to
which the body can be inserted into a person's mouth.

11. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 10,
wherein the guard is a locking sleeve which has more than one
25 locking position, such that the guard is axially adjustable
to a selected one of the locking positions along the first
portion of the body.

12. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 10,
30 wherein the sip and puff switch has a saliva trap chamber
with a removable cover to facilitate cleaning.

13. The mouth activated input device as defined in Claim 10,
wherein the sensor element plate pivoting to secondary
35 positions between the four primary positions.